

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, SU

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF US POLICY TOWARD THE SUDAN

REF: STATE 123634

BEGIN SUMMARY: RESUMPTION OPIC AND EXIM ACTIVITIES WILL CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO FAVORABLE EVOLUTION USG/GOS, RELATIONS. WITH

NORMALIZATION PROCESS THUS NOW INITIATED, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT CARRY IT FORWARD IN MANNER WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THIS SATISFACTORY TREND AND ASSURE THAT SUDANESE DO NOT BECOME CONFUSED BY CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS AS TO OUR INTENTIONS. PROMPT NORMALIZATION MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSING OPERATIONS CASE, IN POINT. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPARTMENT'S WELCOME DECISION (REFTEL) RE OPIC AND EXIM ACTIVITIES WILL OBVIOUSLY CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF OUR RELATIONS HERE. LANGUAGE PARA 2 IS, HOWEVER, SOMEWHAT PUZZLING, SINCE IT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INTRODUCING TWO HURDLES IN GRADUAL NORMALIZATION PROCESS WHICH WERE NOT ORIGINALLY THERE. FIRSTLY, IT ADVANCES NEW GENERALIZED CRITERION WHEREAS PROCESS WAS HERETOFORE SPECIFICALLY LINKED TO OUR OWN ESTIMATE OF WHAT IS REQUIRED AS
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RESULT DOMESTIC OPINION, NOTABLY ASSESSMENT RESIDUAL

CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO NIMEIRI'S DECISION (PARA 3, STATE 169610, AUGUST 3, 1974). SECONDLY, IT APPEARS PUT CART BEFORE HORSE, SINCE CONTINUED SATISFACTORY EVOLUTION OF OUR RELATIONS WILL IN FACT DEPEND IN LARGE PART ON HOW WE IMPLEMENT RETURN TO NORMAL TIES. EXCEPT FOR MAJOR BLUNDER LAST JUNE WHICH MADE IT NECESSARY FOR US TO INSTITUTE A "HOLD" ON OUR NORMAL ACTIVITIES, GOS POSTURE HAS CONTINUED TO BE SATISFACTORY OR BETTER THROUGHOUT WHOLE PERIOD, AS ILLUSTRATED BY OUTSTANDING SUDANESE COOPERATION LAST SUMMER WHICH LED TO RELEASE TENNECO HOSTAGES. I QUESTION WHAT FURTHER SATISFACTORY EVOLUTION COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED IN TERMS GOS ACTIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY AM UNCLEAR HOW JUDGMENT WOULD BE REACHED AS TO TIMING ADDITIONAL STEPS. NOW THAT NORMALIZATION PROCESSED HAS BEEN INITIATED, IT IS IMPORTANT, IN MY JUDGMENT THAT IT BE PROGRESSIVELY CARRIED FORWARD IN A MANNER WHICH WILL MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS WHILE ASSURING SUDANESE DO NOT BECOME CONFUSED BY CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS AS TO OUR INTENTIONS. THIS OVERALL APPROACH IS OBVIOUSLY SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD GOS TAKE SOME EGREGIOUS NEW ACTION TO WHICH WE WOULD STRONGLY OBJECT BUT THERE APPEARS NO BASIS FOR VIEWING THIS CONTINGENCY AS REALISTIC POSSIBILITY;

2. QUESTION OF SUDANESE BEING CONFUSED BY CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS IS, HOWEVER, A REAL RISK WHICH WE WILL PRESUMABLY WISH TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO AVOID. FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE DO NOT SHORTLY NORMALIZE MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSING OPERATIONS, MC REPEAT MC MAY WELL FEEL IT SHOULD TURN DOWN APPLICATION FROM PAGE COMMUNICATIONS COVERING MULTIMILLION DOLLAR NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT CONTRACT WHICH MAY BECOME OPERATIVE WITH INITIAL PAYMENT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. ANY PROBLEM WITH LICENSE WOULD HARDLY BE SEEN BY GOS AS CONSONANT WITH RENEWAL SUDANESE OPIC AND EXIM ELIGIBILITY (AND LATTER LIKELY BE VIEWED BY GOS INCREASINGLY AS HOLLOW GESTURE SHOULD NOT CONCRETE RSL LTS BE LONG IN COMING).

3. ALSO RELATED TO PENDING ISSUES ARE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SUDAN WHICH ARE FINANCED IN WHOLE OR PART BY AID CENTRALLY-FUNDED MONIES. SUCH PROJECTS COVER VARIETY CONTRACTS, TDY CONFIDENTIAL

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TECHNICIANS AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES NOT REPEAT NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A BILATERAL AID PROGRAM (E.G., SPECIAL WEED CONTROL WORKSHOP PLANNED HERE NEXT FALL BY PARTIALLY FINANCED NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES). NO SPECIFIC "HOLD" WAS PLACED ON SUCH ACTIVITIES BY STATE 169610 AND SOME HAVE VFMOUTUED NORMALLY. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY BELIEVES IT NOW APPROPRIATE TO NORMALIZE ITS HANDLING SUCH ITEMS AS THEY COME TO OUR ATTENTION THROUGH

CUSTOMARY AID/W CIRCULARS AND SIMILAR COMMUNICATIONS.

4. I URGE DEPT'S FURTHER DECISIONS ON GRADUAL NORMALIZATION USG/GOS RELATIONS BE TAKEN IN TIMELY FASHION IN LIGHT FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS.

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